

**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, March 3,
1794, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson

Phila. March 3. 1794.

Dear Sir

The avidity with which I knew you sought retirement and peace, undisturbed by political concerns, with the further consideration that no event of any importance had taken place since you left us, prevented my trespassing on you sooner. I am perfectly satisfied you will find in that retirement a contentment & tranquility not to be hoped for in publick life. And yours will be the greater because you carry to it, notwithstanding the important and even turbulent scenes you have passed thro', not only approbation of yr. own heart, & of yr. countrymen generally, but the silence & of course the constrained approbation of yr. enemies. I look forward with pleasure to the period, and it shall be no distant one, when I shall occupy as yr. neighbour the adjoining farm. To this and all my plans will hereafter have an undeviating reference, and I consider the death of Mrs. Monroe's father-an event lately taken place lessening her attachment to this quarter of our country, as calculated to precipitate it.

You were aware of the motive in commencing the session by some not connected with the present state of our affrs. founded on the publick sentiment, and which shod. at the same time vindicate our rights & interests, and likewise shun all possible parties for war

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on the part of the power it was meant to affect. And that the propositions introduced by Mr. Madison were that. Best calculated to accomplish this object.

Of their fate so far he says he will inform you, so that I need only add on that subject, that whether they succeed or not, they will certainly tend to open the eyes of the Eastern people respecting the conduct of their representatives as well as of the motive for it. Information is all they want: an opposition to our carrying trade by their own members will affect them, in such a manner, they will all know the fact, & understand the motive. I therefore hope for the best effects from the discussion of these propositions, and think symptoms to the Eastward authorize the expectation it will be verified.

On Friday last the Senate 14 to 12 declared that Mr. Gallatin had not been 9 years a citizen of the U. States when elected & that his seat was vacant. Upon this occasion Mr. N. of N.C. left us wh. prevented a division, & a decision from the chair. We have reason to believe that decision woud. have been with us, from what has since transpired, upon the principle, his vote shod. not displace the sitting member. Morris had intimated in the beginng. He shod. take no part in the question but finding that Langdon was with us, & the question woud. probably depend on his vote just before the vote was taken he rose and apologised for the necessity he was under from scruples of conscience (being convinced he had no right to his seat) to vote his colleague out. It appeared he had been near 14 years a resident, 7 years in Mass. Where he was a professor of Harvard College, and where there is not citizen law, and inhabitation makes citizenship, by the constitution of that state. In opposition to wh. it was contended that the Englh. Alien laws were in force there & that it was the practice of the State to pass special acts of naturalizn. For foreigners. That "inhabitant" means native or person naturalized

and that the confn. (4th article) could not make an inhabt. Tho' for 50 years in that State, not born nor naturalized there a citizen in another immigrating there. The opposit of this doctrine was urged in both instances, and in particular in the , that specl. Acts of naturalizn might be intended to dispense with residence, or as favors, and at best wd. not controul

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the constn. of the State wh. was paramount & a rule to us. He had not taken the oath of fedelity 9 years when elected nor when he took his seat.

Abt. 3 weekes past a resolve passed the Senate by a majority of one for requesting the President to lay before the Senate the correspondence of Gr. Morris, with out Ex: & with that of France also. Two days past he laid before us a voluminous correspondence, stating "that he had omitted such parts as in his judgment ought not to be communicated." It has not yet been taken up. The opinion however of many is that his discretion shod. extend to time only. But this assumes the controul over the whole subject & in all respects. The removal of Mr. G. if it wod. have been proper in any event to discuss this point (considering the Senate a branch of the legislature) will I presume prevent it.

About a week past the question for opening the doors of the Senate was taken. By the 1st vote it was rejected 14 to 13. Bradley of Verm. finding he cod. carry it moved to reconsider wh gained us immediately three others, & upon the final vote the opposition was reduc'd to 8 or 9 only Ellsworth &c voting for it, to take effect next session.

The Indian treaty formed by Putnam after lengthy discussion was rejected. The arrival of Mr. Fauchet has removed Mr. Genet who is still here & I believe under some difficulty how to shape his course on wh. head nothing final has transpired.

Fauchet was recd. with the most profound attention by the party heretofore opposed to his country & her cause. Tis probable they might hope the fate of his predecessor wod. warn him to shun not only his error but likewise the friends of France, upon the idea they were the friends of Mr. Genet. But this calculation cannot be verified. He must soon find that the republican party here are the only friends of that cause in his own country, and that it was owing to a zeal for that cause and a belief the man was honest, that his errors were in any degree tolerated by them. As yet the conduct of Fauchet appears to be reserved and prudent, and tis to be hoped he will finally take a course corresponding with what the interest of his country may require. We are well. Mrs. M. was called abut three weeks

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past by the illness of Mr. Kortright to N. Yk. where she still is: I hope for her return in a few days. With great respect & esteem I am dear Sir sincerely yr. friend & servant Jas. Monroe

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